

SECTION III—REMARKS

This amendment is submitted together with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in response to the final Office Action mailed August 10, 2006. Claim 28 is amended and claims 28-34 remain pending in the application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 28 and 30 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by German Patent No. DE-003537653AZ to Betz *et al.* (“Betz”) and Japanese Patent Application No. JP-362229884A to Takesawa *et al.* (“Takesawa”). The Examiner also rejected claims 28-34 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by U.S. Patent No. 6,653,724 to Kim *et al.* (“Kim”).

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s rejections. A claim is anticipated only if each and every element, as set forth in the claim, is found in a single prior-art reference. MPEP § 2131; *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil of California*, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). For at least the reasons explained below, Applicants respectfully submit that *Betz*, *Takesawa* and *Kim* cannot anticipate these claims because none of these references discloses every element and limitation recited in the claims.

Claim 28, as amended, recites a process combination including:

providing a housing having two or more solder pins projecting therefrom;

positioning a frame on the housing such that the solder pins are received in a corresponding number of holes in the frame;

aligning the frame by moving it parallel and perpendicular to the solder pins, wherein the holes are sized relative to the solder pins such that the frame can be moved a selected distance perpendicular to the solder pins without the solder pins contacting any part of the sidewalls of the holes *at any time during alignment*; and

soldering the solder pins within the holes.

(italics added). In the Office Action, the Examiner takes the position that none of *Betz*, *Takesawa* and *Kim* discloses a process combination in which the pins do not come into contact with the sidewalls of the holes at any time during alignment. As currently amended, claim 28 recites that the frame can be moved a selected distance perpendicular to the solder pins “without the solder pins contacting any part of the sidewalls of the holes at any time during alignment.” Since none of the references discloses a combination including these limitations, Applicants submit that the references cannot anticipate the claim and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim.

Regarding claims 29-34 if an independent claim is allowable, then any claim depending therefrom is also allowable. *See generally* MPEP § 2143.03; *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988). As discussed above, claim 28 is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 29-34 are therefore allowable by virtue of their dependence on an allowable independent claim, as well as by virtue of the features recited therein. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of these claims.

Conclusion

Given the above amendments and accompanying remarks, all claims pending in the application are in condition for allowance. If the undersigned attorney has overlooked a teaching in any of the cited references that is relevant to allowance of the claims, the Examiner is requested to specifically point out where such teaching may be found. Further, if there are any informalities or questions that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 292-8600.

Charge Deposit Account

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fee(s) that may be due in this matter, and please credit the same deposit account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Request for Continued Examination (RCE)
RCE transmittal, in duplicate